

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 471

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant David Allen Wyatt, United States Marine Corps, of Hixson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, like every American, were greatly saddened by the targeted attack upon the U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center and recruitment facilities in Chattanooga on July 16, 2015, and the tragic loss of life suffered; and

WHEREAS, this tragedy has touched the hearts and lives of people across the nation, but it is a deeply personal loss to those family and friends who lost a loved one, be they a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, son, or daughter; and

WHEREAS, the lives of a family were forever changed on that day when they lost a husband, father, son, brother, friend, and proud Marine who served as part of the Mike Battery, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 14<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment; and

WHEREAS, a native of Morgantown, North Carolina, Staff Sergeant Wyatt was raised in Arkansas, graduated from Russellville High School in 1998, and attended Piedmont Community College in Morgantown, North Carolina, Arkansas Tech, and the University of Montana in Missoula. As a young man, he was an avid participant in the Boy Scouts of America and earned the rank of Eagle Scout; and

WHEREAS, David Wyatt loved his country and, following the events of September 11, 2001, joined the United States Marine Corps. He attended boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and, during his eleven-year career as a Marine, he served with valor and honor in Okinawa, Japan; 29 Palms, California; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and in Kuwait and Korea; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Wyatt specialized in field artillery, and rendered sterling service during three tours of duty, one in Afghanistan and two in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, he was also wholly dedicated to serving his community, and participated in a number of civic organizations, including Toys for Tots. In fitting regard of his leadership skills, Sergeant Wyatt had been named as the coordinator for the 2015 toy drive; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Wyatt was deeply devoted to his family and always looked for opportunities to provide assistance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of ten years, Lorri Wyatt, and his children, Rebecca and Heath Wyatt. He was a loving, caring father, and enjoyed the time he spent as his daughter's soccer coach; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Wyatt is also survived by his father and stepmother, Allen and Michelle Wyatt; his mother and stepfather, Deborah and Martin Boen; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Dawne and Bryan Trent, Elizabeth and Major Scot Kleinman, Chauntisy and James Ayers, and Chesleigh and Joseph Palmer; his brothers, Thomas M. Fleenor and Jeremiah A. Wyatt; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant David Wyatt leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should remember the tragically short yet courageous life of this exceptional human being and proud member of the United States Marine Corps; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant David Allen Wyatt of the United States Marine Corps, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Staff Sergeant Wyatt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.